

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 HA-05 /101 W
-----108142 231502Z /50

R 231200Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7235
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
CINCPAC
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0072

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PGOV ECON ELAB MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW -- JANUARY 20 -- SUMMARY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 0046 (DTG 130804Z JAN 78)
(B) PORT LOUIS A-5, JANUARY 20, 1978)

1. ON JANUARY 10 THE CENTRAL BANK (BANK OF MAURITIUS) ANNOUNCED
AUSTERITY MEASURES INTENDED TO REDUCE THE RATE OF GROWTH OF THE
MONEY SUPPLY, CONSERVE FOREIGN EXCHANGE BY REDUCING IMPORTS, AND
FIGHT INFLATION, PRIMARILY THROUGH RESTRICTING THE RATE OF GROWTH
OF BANK CREDIT. THOUGH CERTAIN SECTORS WRE EXEMPTED FROM THE
MEASURES, SUCH AS COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE FREE ZONE AND THOSE
WITH DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES, THE SUGAR INDUSTRY WAS NOT EXEMPTED.
THIS OMISSION PLUS OTHERS HAVE CAUSED SOME LOCAL ECONOMISTS TO FEAR
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THAT THE MEASURES WILL LEAD TO A RECESSION AND WILL FUEL
INFLATION RATHER THAN DAMPEN IT.

2. ON THE POLITICAL SCENE, PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM DID NOT LIKE
THE CONTENT NOR THE MANNER IN WHICH CERTAIN PROPOSALS WERE MADE
BY A YOUNG LABOR PARTY DEPUTY FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE PARTY.
THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO LASHED OUT AT THE OPPOSITION MAURITIAN

MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM), SAYING THAT IF IT WERE TO COME TO POWER, IT WOULD SUPPRESS BASIC FREEDOMS. THE LABOR PARTY'S COALITION PARTNER,

THE MAURITIUS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD), IS REPORTEDLY BECOMING UNEASY OVER THE LABOR PARTY'S ATTEMPTS TO ENCROACH UPON ITS TRADITION-

AL TERRITORIES IN PORT LOUIS AND THE OTHER MAJOR TOWNS.

3. IN THE OPPOSITION CAMP, MMM-DOMINATED DOCKWORKERS ARE THREATENING WORK SLOWDOWNS UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT TAKES STEPS TO OFFSET JOB LOSSES EXPECTED IN 1980 DUE TO THE OPERATION OF THE PORT'S LARGE SUGAR BULK-LOADING FACILITY. THE SEVER-YEAR-OLD GENERAL WORKERS FEDERATION (GWF), THE MMM-ORIENTED TRADE UNION FEDERATION, DECIDED TO REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO GAIN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. AND PAUL BERENGER, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MMM, WHO WAS IN BETWEEN TRIPS TO THE SEYCHELLES AND MADAGASCAR WHILE ORGANIZING A CONFERENCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN'S "PROGRESSIVE FORCES," STATED THAT AN MMM GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT FORBID THE ENTRY OF SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISTS INTO MAURITIUS SINCE TO DO SO WOULD BE "TO PRACTICE REVERSE APARTHEID."
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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